Daar Mark, Allen 11/24/75

This is to explain the delay in sending your book. If I can I will get to it today. But because the day begins with a trip to the lab for blood-testing, still required regularly, then one to the doctor for an examination, in D.C., and then a speech at Maryland tonight, I don't know.

Your letter came while I was off doing battle with Belin. It was rough in every way, although I did accomplish my announced purpose, as his statement attests. I eman by announced to my friends and the press in advance and to him to his face. By the time that was over I could hardly get a shoe off and haven't worn one since. I don't know if I can tonight, although I hope to. As Floyd can tell you, I required help just getting home. As I remember it my wife told me your letter came the day I left. I am aware of its contents.

The reaction to Post Mortem's mailing is the greatest to date. If it keeps up this way perhaps we'll get enough back to pay the cost of printing the next book, meaning the first to go out of print.

It means an enormous burden for two tired people one of whom is of limited activity. This requires that we take first those roders that require least work. When I've broadcast I've asked people to include mailing labels. This means that during the time I have my legs elevated I can lick a lable, put it on an envelope, put a book in, and mail. However, the with the printer having supplied the wrong size envelope to begin with and to have found a substitute that still requires special taping, we are much slowed down. Saturday I used seven rolls of Scotch tape alone. I got back Thursday evening and I've been so intensively at packaging, which I can do with my legs elevated, I haven't walked to the road yet.

While we generallyfollow uniform practises and have to, there are exceptions. Ordinarily the first books to go out are to " critics," a bad term.

Generally also where there is a letter calling for a response, these gets stacked until I can get to them. There is no practical choice. We don't have space to stack up orders ready to go out and we have to keep them from backing up.

With this explanation I want to add that the reason for not filling your order was not that you had not included the mailing charges. Ordinarily is is easier and cheaper for us to forget and abrorb them, as we do with those orders from Md. on which there is sales tax. The reason was Hoch's unwillingness to order his own book. The intent like much else I have not been able to fathom in him in recent years (which means I find him different in his attitudes and thinking that he used to be, to say nothing of standards of personal conduct)is in his own mind. I find any inference I may draw offensive. If he fears some special kind of contamination in ordering the book directly from me I fear the books itself may trouble him with the same kind of contamination. If he does not fear being madesx somehow impure by ordering the book from me I will, of course, send it to him. And if he is in a hurry, it will speed thinks up if with his check he includes a label. I am not physically up to the present demands on me and I do have to do what is easiest first. The only real exception is bookstore orders. If they accumulate we can't even walk around. And the actuality is that I am really quite weary and have little physical stamina. We have no help on this. The only real help has been from Floyd, who has been wonderful, and from Scott and his friends, without whom we'd not have had space to stack the books in the cellarwhen they were delivered. These kindnesses mean much to us but the fact is that day to day we are alone. Right now we can't keep up. Taking those two day to get Belin to do what I did and today, or most of it, for the Md. speech, will, if the orders come in as they have been, means that we will get further behind. However, it will not be lonf before I send your book with a check my wife will have to write for the difference. A carbon for Paul, who I certainly do not want to contaminate by sending it directly, is enclosed if you care to send it to him. And the book is $10, but we have to add 75¢ for mailing and insurance costs. We are asking insurance because of the mailing problems with WWIV. This, of course, also requires more time of us. Thanks and best regards,